Lesson Nine: The Command
[اَلأَمْر]

The *command* (اَلأَمْر) is used to demand an act. For example, اِفْعَلْ means, "do!" and لِيَفْعَلْ means, "he must do!" All conjugations of the *command* are derived from the *present tense verb* in the state of *jazm* (جَزْم). Active voice conjugations of the *command* reflect the person, gender, and plurality of the individual commanded. For example, لِيَفْعَلُوْا means, "they must do!" Passive voice conjugations of the *command* reflect the person, gender, and plurality of the *object* of the command. For example, لِيُفْعَلُوْا means, "they (e.g., those tasks) must be done!"

PRINCIPLE ONE

The *command* is formed from the *present tense verb* in two distinct ways. In the case of the active voice of the first and third person, the *command* is made by placing the particle " لِ " before the *present tense verb* (*table 9.1*). This particle is called the *lām of command* (لاَم اَلأَمْر) and it is one of five particles that cause *present tense verb*s to enter the *state* of *jazm* (جَزْم) [*lesson seven*, *principle one*]. For example, يَفْعَلُ (*he does*) becomes لِيَفْعَلْ (*he must do*!).

PRINCIPLE TWO

Active voice conjugations of the second person *command* are created by (1) placing the second person *present tense verb* in the state of *jazm*, (2) replacing the initial *tā'* of the second person with a *hamzah* (seated on an *'alif*), and (3) voweling this *hamzah* with a *kasrah*[26] (*table 9.2*). For example, تَفْعَلُ (*you do*) becomes اِفْعَلْ (*do*!).

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[26] In some cases, the *hamzah* is voweled with a *dammah*. This occurs when the letter at the *'ain* position of the *present tense verb* is also voweled with a *dammah*. Such patterns are covered in *Lesson Sixteen*. For example, يَنْصُرُ (*he helps*), becomes اُنْصُرْ (*help*!). See *table 16.3*, *verb form I*, types A and E.

PRINCIPLE THREE

All passive voice conjugations of the *command*, including the second person, are formed by placing the *lām of command* (لِ) before passive voice conjugations of the *present tense verb*. For example, **تُفْعَلُ** (*you are being done*) becomes **لِتُفْعَلْ** (*be done*!) [*table 9.3*].

THE EMPHATIC COMMAND

The *emphatic command* is used to forcefully demand an act. For example, **اِفْعَلَنَّ** means, "verily do!" and **لِيَفْعَلَنَّ** means, "verily he must do!" All conjugations of the *emphatic command* are derived from the *emphatic*. Active voice conjugations of the *emphatic command* reflect the person, gender, and plurality of the individual commanded. For example, **لِيَفْعَلُنَّ** means, "verily they must do!" Passive voice conjugations of the *emphatic command* reflect the person, gender, and plurality of the *object* of the command. For example, **لِيُفْعَلُنَّ** means, "verily they (e.g., those tasks) must be done!"

PRINCIPLE FOUR

The *emphatic command* is formed from the *emphatic* in two distinct ways. In the case of the active voice of the first and third person, the *emphatic command* is formed by (1) removing the *lām of emphasis* (لَ) from the *emphatic* and (2) replacing it with the *lām of command* (لِ). Because all forms of the *emphatic* are *stateless* (**مَبْنِي**), this *lām* does not change the state of the verb. However, the verb's meaning changes from the emphatic to the emphatic command. For example, **لَيَفْعَلَنَّ** (*verily he will do*!) becomes **لِيَفْعَلَنَّ** (*verily he must do*!).

PRINCIPLE FIVE

Active voice conjugations of the second person *emphatic command* are formed by (1) removing the " لَ " from the beginning of the *emphatic*, (2) replacing the initial *tā'* of the second person with a *hamzah* (seated on an

'alif), and (3) voweling this *hamzah* with a *kasrah*.[27] For example, **لَتَفْعَلَنَّ** (*verily you will do*!) becomes **اِفْعَلَنَّ** (*verily do*!).

PRINCIPLE SIX

All passive voice conjugations of the *emphatic command*, including the second person, are formed by replacing the *lām of emphasis* (لَ) with the *lām of command* (لِ). For example, **لَتُفْعَلَنَّ** (*verily you will be done*!) becomes **لِتُفْعَلَنَّ** (*verily be done*!) [*table 9.3*].

ESSENTIAL NOTE

The conjugations of the *command* and the *emphatic command* must be memorized (*table 9.3*) before moving to the next lesson.

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[27] In some cases, this *hamzah* is voweled with a *dammah*. See footnote 26.

TABLE 9.1

CREATING THE FIRST AND THIRD PERSON ACTIVE VOICE *COMMAND*

VERB IN ORIGINAL *RAF'A*	**SIGN OF *RAF'A***		***LĀM OF COMMAND* CAUSING *JAZM***	**MEANS OF EXPRESSING *JAZM***		**ACTIVE VOICE *COMMAND***
يَفْعَلُ He *or* It (S/M) does	Final *dammah*	+	لِ	Change final *dammah* to *sukūn*	⇨	لِيَفْعَلْ He/It (S/M) must do!
يَفْعَلانِ They (D/M) do	Final *nūn*	+	لِ	Drop final *nūn*	⇨	لِيَفْعَلا They (D/M) must do!
يَفْعَلُوْنَ They (P/M) do	Final *nūn*	+	لِ	Drop final *nūn*	⇨	لِيَفْعَلُوْا They (P/M) must do!
تَفْعَلُ She *or* It (S/F) does	Final *dammah*	+	لِ	Change final *dammah* to *sukūn*	⇨	لِتَفْعَلْ She/It (S/F) must do!
تَفْعَلانِ They (D/F) do	Final *nūn*	+	لِ	Drop final *nūn*	⇨	لِتَفْعَلا They (D/F) must do!
يَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) do	*Stateless* (مَبْنِي)	+	لِ	No change	⇨	لِيَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) must do!
أَفْعَلُ I do	Final *dammah*	+	لِ	Change final *dammah* to *sukūn*	⇨	لِأَفْعَلْ I must do!
نَفْعَلُ We do	Final *dammah*	+	لِ	Change final *dammah* to *sukūn*	⇨	لِنَفْعَلْ We must do!

M=Masculine F=Feminine S=Singular D=Dual P=Plural

TABLE 9.2

CREATING THE SECOND PERSON[28] ACTIVE VOICE *COMMAND*

PRESENT TENSE* IN *JAZM	**STEP ONE**		**STEP TWO**		**ACTIVE VOICE *COMMAND***
تَفْعَلْ You (S/M)	Remove the initial *tā'*	+	Add a *hamzah* (seated on an *'alif*) with a *kasrah* to the beginning of the verb	⇨	اِفْعَلْ [You] Do! (S/M)
تَفْعَلاَ You (D/M)	Remove the initial *tā'*	+	Add a *hamzah* (seated on an *'alif*) with a *kasrah* to the beginning of the verb	⇨	اِفْعَلاَ [You] Do! (D/M)
تَفْعَلُوْا You (P/M)	Remove the initial *tā'*	+	Add a *hamzah* (seated on an *'alif*) with a *kasrah* to the beginning of the verb	⇨	اِفْعَلُوْا [You] Do! (P/M)
تَفْعَلِيْ You (S/F)	Remove the initial *tā'*	+	Add a *hamzah* (seated on an *'alif*) with a *kasrah* to the beginning of the verb	⇨	اِفْعَلِيْ [You] Do! (S/F)
تَفْعَلاَ You (D/F)	Remove the initial *tā'*	+	Add a *hamzah* (seated on an *'alif*) with a *kasrah* to the beginning of the verb	⇨	اِفْعَلاَ [You] Do! (D/F)
تَفْعَلْنَ You (P/F)	Remove the initial *tā'*	+	Add a *hamzah* (seated on an *'alif*) with a *kasrah* to the beginning of the verb	⇨	اِفْعَلْنَ [You] Do! (P/F)

M=Masculine F=Feminine S=Singular D=Dual P=Plural

[28] Recall that the second person is used to refer to the individual *spoken to*. Therefore, each of the conjugations listed in *table 9.2* directly commands an individual or a group of individuals. For example, اِفْعَلاَ (*do*!) commands two individuals to perform an action (i.e., *you two do*!).

TABLE 9.3

THE *COMMAND*

PASSIVE VOICE ***EMPHATIC***	**ACTIVE VOICE** ***EMPHATIC***	**PASSIVE VOICE**	**ACTIVE VOICE**
لِيُفْعَلَنَّ Verily he/it (S/M) must be done!	لِيَفْعَلَنَّ Verily he/it (S/M) must do!	لِيُفْعَلْ He/It (S/M) must be done!	لِيَفْعَلْ He/It (S/M) must do!
لِيُفْعَلَانِّ Verily they (D/M) must be done!	لِيَفْعَلَانِّ Verily they (D/M) must do!	لِيُفْعَلَا They (D/M) must be done!	لِيَفْعَلَا They (D/M) must do!
لِيُفْعَلُنَّ Verily they (P/M) must be done!	لِيَفْعَلُنَّ Verily they (P/M) must do!	لِيُفْعَلُوْا They (P/M) must be done!	لِيَفْعَلُوْا They (P/M) must do!
لِتُفْعَلَنَّ Verily she/it (S/F) must be done!	لِتَفْعَلَنَّ Verily she/it (S/F) must do!	لِتُفْعَلْ She/It (S/F) must be done!	لِتَفْعَلْ She/It (S/F) must do!
لِتُفْعَلَانِّ Verily they (D/F) must be done!	لِتَفْعَلَانِّ Verily they (D/F) must do!	لِتُفْعَلَا They (D/F) must be done!	لِتَفْعَلَا They (D/F) must do!
لِيُفْعَلْنَانِّ Verily they (P/F) must be done!	لِيَفْعَلْنَانِّ Verily they (P/F) must do!	لِيُفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) must be done!	لِيَفْعَلْنَ They (P/F) must do!
لِتُفْعَلَنَّ Verily [you] be done! (S/M)	اِفْعَلَنَّ Verily [you] do! (S/M)	لِتُفْعَلْ [You] Be done! (S/M)	اِفْعَلْ [You] Do! (S/M)
لِتُفْعَلَانِّ Verily [you] be done! (D/M)	اِفْعَلَانِّ Verily [you] do! (D/M)	لِتُفْعَلَا [You] Be done! (D/M)	اِفْعَلَا [You] Do! (D/M)
لِتُفْعَلُنَّ Verily [you] be done! (P/M)	اِفْعَلُنَّ Verily [you] do! (P/M)	لِتُفْعَلُوْا [You] Be done! (P/M)	اِفْعَلُوْا [You] Do! (P/M)
لِتُفْعَلِنَّ Verily [you] be done! (S/F)	اِفْعَلِنَّ Verily [you] do! (S/F)	لِتُفْعَلِيْ [You] Be done! (S/F)	اِفْعَلِيْ [You] Do! (S/F)
لِتُفْعَلَانِّ Verily [you] be done! (D/F)	اِفْعَلَانِّ Verily [you] do! (D/F)	لِتُفْعَلَا [You] Be done! (D/F)	اِفْعَلَا [You] Do! (D/F)
لِتُفْعَلْنَانِّ Verily [you] be done! (P/F)	اِفْعَلْنَانِّ Verily [you] do! (P/F)	لِتُفْعَلْنَ [You] Be done! (P/F)	اِفْعَلْنَ [You] Do! (P/F)
لِأُفْعَلَنَّ Verily I must be done!	لِأَفْعَلَنَّ Verily I must do!	لِأُفْعَلْ I must be done!	لِأَفْعَلْ I must do!
لِنُفْعَلَنَّ Verily we must be done!	لِنَفْعَلَنَّ Verily we must do!	لِنُفْعَلْ We must be done!	لِنَفْعَلْ We must do!